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civic virtues as neighborliness, sobriety, and morality" (p. 79); and why Sir F. Eden said that the members of the English Friendly Societies "are generally comparatively cleanly, orderly, and sober, and consequently happy and good members of society," while others in the same village are "living in filth and wretchedness" (p. 183).

In view of the splendid helpfulness of our social settlements in many ways, it is to be hoped that the enduring influence of thrift on character may be given its proper value in their teachings. That it should be decried is probably due to an eagerness to avoid some local difficulties which prevent a grasp upon a principle of general application. Whatever the objections to the lending class (such as pawnbrokers and other sharks who lend at high rates of interest and so typify capitalists to the poor borrowers) among the needy, the best is not being done for them by sacrificing a principle necessary to their growth to a bit of local prejudice. The true remedy lies rather in teaching thrift, and showing these borrowers how to take advantages of provident banks (which aim to supplant the sharks).

It would be difficult to overpraise this little volume. In clear and concise chapters the true conception of thrift is given in popular fashion, and the various agencies for cultivating the habit of saving are admirably described. It should be in the hands of every charity visitor. L.

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*Mr Lex : Or the Legal Status of Mother and Child.* By CATHARINE WAUGH McCULLOCH. Chicago: Flemming H. Revell Company. 16mo, pp. 85.

IN this little book is presented a criticism of the laws which define the status of mother and child. The object is to help mothers to a clear vision of their own responsibilities; to convince fathers that mothers, deprived of power, can never do their full duty toward their children; and to induce legislators to change unjust laws.

In fiction, which is stranger than truth, the reader learns that a father familiar with the law may without the advice of the mother, even in spite of her protests, choose food and clothes for their children, punish them, medicate them, select their schools and church, collect wages, select the burial spot for the dead, decide about the duties for the living, send nursing babies from the mothers, etc. Unfortunately the author fails to suggest a practicable remedy for the conditions which make differences of opinion between the parents a source of injustice to mother and child.

W. H. A.



